

to stand here wearing my gold ribbon of hope and voice my support for the children and families who are affected by this disease.

Cancer causes more deaths during childhood than any other disease. This year an estimated 12,400 children will be diagnosed with cancer, and 2,300 will die. Though we celebrate with the survivors and their families, we cannot forget the children who will, unfortunately, succumb.

That is why I am preparing to introduce legislation on behalf of these children and their families that will support them through the hospice care. Later this month, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and I will host a conference for Members and staff in order to address the challenges concerning hospice care for children and share our ideas and examine questions regarding this serious topic.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation, the conference, and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

GENERIC DRUGS PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

(Mr. GOODE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, today over 40 million Americans lack adequate health insurance coverage and millions more are struggling to cover their health care bills. Unfortunately, seniors and children are among the groups most vulnerable in American society. Finding solutions to this health care crisis has to be at the top of our agenda.

Fortunately, there is help. Right now, generic drug companies are producing lifesaving and life-improving medicines that cost substantially less than brand name drugs. In fact, generic drugs provide one of the best values in the United States health care system. The substantial savings provided by generic drugs means more Americans can buy the medicines they need. It also means that through greater use of generic drugs, public health programs, like Medicaid and Medicare, can manage to help more Americans.

Generic drugs should be a key part of any prescription drug program approved by this Congress.

BRAND NAME AND GENERIC DRUGS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, does anyone in the Chamber know the difference between Zantac and Ranitidine Hydrochloride? Here is the answer: Price. Zantac is the brand name of a

popular medication to treat ulcers. Ranitidine Hydrochloride is the generic name of the exact same drug.

The Food and Drug Administration ensures that whether a consumer uses a drug by its brand name, such as Zantac, or a drug that goes by the generic name, such as Ranitidine, they will receive the same active ingredients and the same health benefits. To quote FDA Commissioner Jane Henney, "If the FDA declares a generic drug to be therapeutically equivalent to an innovator drug, the two products will provide the same intended clinical effect."

This is important, Mr. Speaker, because if we ever hope to bring health care inflation under control, we have to understand that brand drugs and generic drugs are truly interchangeable. Through greater use of high quality, less costly generic drugs, we can have truly affordable and effective medicine.

If we check our medicine cabinets, we find that there are more affordable generics available for many of these expensive prescriptions.

ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO RESOLVE OIL CRISIS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, first let me say the Federal Reserve has done a great job in keeping our economy strong and growing. Unfortunately, the Clinton-Gore administration's lack of a coherent energy policy threatens that very economic prosperity.

As I speak, fuel prices around the Nation and around the world are skyrocketing as the price of oil tops \$37 per barrel. Rising fuel prices affect every sector of the economy and eventually every American.

Airlines are increasing fares; truckers, who deliver our food, medicine, and virtually everything else are straining to meet their contractual obligations and pay for fuel that is now costing an average of \$1.62 cents a gallon. As consumer prices rise, consumer spending will decrease, leading to sluggish sales, larger inventories and slower growth.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is the administration's answer to the pending crisis? Well, instead of using the 8 years they had in office to develop an energy policy which would have prevented this crisis, the Clinton-Gore administration squandered those opportunities and now is only offering last-minute solutions, like begging Saudi Arabia to increase oil production.

For an administration that has not been ashamed to take all the credit for the current economy, I hope they do as much to solve this crisis than just admit, as they did in the spring, that they fell asleep at the switch.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL SHOULD BE FORMED TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, at the time that Wen Ho Lee was first arrested, I met with the Chinese-American Political Association of the greater San Francisco Bay area. Many in that community raised their concerns that he was the target of selective prosecution, of racial profiling, and prosecutorial abuse. As we now see, as that case has started to come to a conclusion with the plea bargain, in fact many of the concerns raised by the Chinese community turned out to be true.

All Americans should be deeply disturbed by the prosecutorial abuse that was raised in this case and used against Wen Ho Lee. This does not suggest that Wen Ho Lee did not have some serious transgressions of the current law and policy, but what his government did to him should cause concern by all Americans.

All Americans are entitled to an impartial review of the actions by all parties to that prosecution. Unfortunately, the congressional committees, the FBI, the intelligence agencies, and all the rest participated in the feeding frenzy at the time of the arrest.

I think maybe we ought to have a national, impartial blue ribbon commission to look at the Wen Ho Lee case and see how we can better safeguard the rights and liberties of all American citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the Debt Relief and Retirement Security Reconciliation Act of 2000, together with such other votes as may have been postponed to that point, will be taken after the debate has concluded on that motion.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken later today.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4919, SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the